

A Merry Christmas to You

A CHRISTMAS for SANTA

DeLysle Ferree Cass

DAN MORRIS had run away from his home on the farm and none of the family had heard a word concerning him in the three years that followed. Dan was the youngest of three children—“her baby,” as old Mrs. Morris always said—and hated farm work. “If brother Jim likes it, let him do it,” he had told the family defiantly. “I’m going to some big city where a fellow has some chance to see life and make his fortune. I’m through with laying all day long in the scorching sun, milking cows and feeding hogs, and then having to sit in the dark on the porch listening to nothing but frogs and katydids until you have to go to bed if you want to get up in time to do it all over again next day. I’m through, I tell you!”

The family had tried to reason with Dan, but it was of no use. One morning they found him gone, leaving only the briefest note of good-by to his mother. And now the third Christmas since his going had come and the family itself was going in to the big city to spend holidays with Julia, who had married and lived there.

Ordinarily Julia and her husband, with little Bobbie, came out to the farm visiting the old folks and brother Jim at Christmas, but this year Julia had a new baby, scarce four months old, and hadn’t felt equal to the trip. So father and sweet-faced mother Morris, their hair already white and with the years’ anxiety for their missing Dan reflected in wrinkled faces—packed up all sorts of home-made cakes in baskets and had sun-burned brother Jim take them for the first time to the big city.

It was a bewildering adventure for those simple souls; each incident of the journey and novel sight after arrival was a never-to-be forgotten experience. Fred, Julia’s brisk and



“I’m Bobbie Wallace.”

heartly husband, welcomed them at the station and thrilled them with a ride out to their daughter’s apartment on the elevated railway. It was a joyous reunion, but—as mother said, with a sudden break in her voice—“it can’t be as if my baby, our Dan, were there with us too.”

“There, there, mother,” said father Morris, patting her quivering shoulder consolingly. “You mustn’t think about Dan just now. He’ll return to us some day when he’s become rich and famous. Just look here, Julia—and you too, Fred—all the mouth-watering stuff that Ma’s brought you from the farm. Home-churned, uncolored butter, luscious those are! And here’s three stuffed six-pound turkeys that were gobbie-gobbling around the barns not many days ago. Hey, little Bob! D’you see those pots of jam, and spiced watermelon pickles? And here are the Christmas presents

Kidnaped By Santa Claus

BY GOODLOE H. THOMAS

My dad sez once they lived a boy
’Us bound that he would see
Old Santa Claus—an’ had no joy
Fer thinkin’ how ‘t ‘ud be
To hide behind a screen an’ wait
Till Santa come around,
Then watch him waitin’ to un-
crate—
Without a word or sound.

Well, Christmas Eve, this boy leton
’At he was sound asleep,
An’ when he knowed the rest had gone
To bed, he went a-creep
Down stairs—an’ gracious!—
watcha think!
He run against him—smack!
Old Santa, yes-sir—’n quick as wink
That boy ‘uz in his pack.

An’ ever since that boy has been
Strapped up an’ has to go
With Santa, fer just that one sin,
Through miles of ice an’ snow;
An’ you bet I ain’t gonna take
No chance like that—noquit!
You’ll find ‘at I won’t be awake
When Santa comes to-night.

all wrapped and tied ready for the tree, but not to be opened by anybody until Christmas morning. Here’s—why, mother! You’ve got one parcel here marked wrong! It has Dan’s name on it!”

Mother Morris dabbed at her eyes with her handkerchief.

“Please, don’t laugh at me, children,” she said sadly. “It’s my Dan’s Christmas as much as it is that for any of the rest of us, and I—I was hoping that maybe we’d find him here in the city now that we’ve come here ourselves.”

It was pathetically absurd, that barren little hope of the bereaved old mother, but none of them even let her see them smile at it.

The afternoon before Christmas Julia persuaded her husband to take little Bobbie downtown so that he could not surprise her trimming the tree. Brother Jim and the old folks went along.

Little Bobbie naturally was most of all interested in the toy departments and hardly could he make leave hold some of the playthings he most fancied.

“Oh see, daddy! A horse that rocks, with a mine and bridle and everything!... And oh, grandma! lookit! lookit! There’s a real live Santa Claus talking to those other little boys and girls!”

It was indeed. The big store had hired a rather shabby-looking young man that week, who for \$15 was supposed to sit at the door of an imitation snow house and solemnly encourage visiting youngsters to tell him their fondest wants in the line of presents. Little Bobbie was impatiently waiting in line, holding fast with one chubby fist to his father’s hand, in no time. Mother and father Morris, and big brother Jim watched and waited smilingly for them on the edge of the crowd.

“Well, my little man, what is your name?” asked the scarlet-coated and long white-whiskered Santa Claus in a tired, husky voice when Bobbie’s turn finally came.

“I’m Bobbie Wallace, dear Mr. Santa Claus, and I live at 5601 Byrne street,” the boy chirruped at him, round-eyed and devoutly believing in the identity of Santa. “My mamma’s name is Julia Wallace and I’ve got a little baby sister now, too.”

The long-whiskered Santa patted his head in perfunctory weariness. “And what do you most want me to put in your stocking this Christmas Eve, Bobbie?” he asked with a side-long glance at the tolerantly smiling father.

“We—ell,” drawled Bobbie uncertainly, “there are lots and lots of things I want awful, awful much. Mister Santa Claus, but I heard my mamma say this morning that it’s ever so much nicer to wish for things for those that love you than for yourself. So I—I guess I ought to ask you

Verses to Send With Christmas Presents

With Embroidery or Any Needlework.
May all your years be glad and bright,
Deep filled with pleasant days,
And all your hours know sweet delight
Of love that lives and stays!
With some such wishes, true and kind,
Each Christmas should begin.
While some of these must surely bind
Because they’ve been sewed in!

With a Gift to a Smoker.
When clouds of smoke around you float
Think sometimes of this loving (friend-ly) cordial note.
When pictures in the smoke you see
Waft now and then a thought to me,
But though you newer joys evoke,
Don’t let our friendship “end in smoke.”

With a Box of Candy.
“Sweets to the sweet,” the wise old saw,
I quote because ‘tis fitting.
And tribute pay unto the law
With gladness unremitting.
“Take unto like” is also true.
Therefore these candies haste to you.

With Music or Musical Instrument.
Because the very thought of you,
Makes music in my mind,
Pray let me share the music true,
“The sweetest (gayest) (brightest) I could find.”

With a Laundry List or Bag.
This gift is clean, as you may see,
So, every time you’d cleanse, be
Just send a pleasant thought to me.

To “Her,” With a Pair of Gloves.
O little thumbs, and fingers, too,
I can but wish that I were you,
Since you, unhid, may clasp her hand,
Tell her—but no! She’ll understand.

With a Book.
I cannot make new worlds for you
Yet these closed covers truly frame
A wondrous world of rapture true—
Be pleased to enter in my name!

To a Lady, With Slippers.
O pretty slippers, small and slight,
Be sure to lead her steps aright,
And when her dainty feet you hold,
Guard them alike from hurt and cold.

With Shaving Materials.
Should you cut yourself in shaving,
Don’t blame-me!
Small effect has bitter raving
When the wound one may not see,
But should your razor smoothly glide,
Include me in your smile so wide.

With Picture of Some Rural Scene.
If your thoughts of town are weary,
Rest your eyes and dream,
Gazing on this picture cheery
Of woodland (rural) (springtime) (ver-nal) vale and stream.
Remember that had I my way,
Such joys would greet you every day.

With Any Christmas Gift.
Here’s a thought of joyous cheer
For Christmas and for all the year!

Merry Christmas

Whether it be prattled on baby lips that scarce can shape the words, or saying them, thinks not, but only feels the insensate overflow of giving from a soft, full heart...

Although it be mumbled inarticulately by the shabby nonentity whose whine for charity one acknowledges in the spirit of the season, even while knowing that the words be said in servile mockery...

If it be breathed by mother mouth, the sad, sweet lines of which were molded so by a yearning, prodigal tenderness and an unflinching devotion, be its object worthy or not...

Whether it be panted from between the warm, moist lips of maidenhood—tremulous, palpitant, shame-faced and shy because of an ardor which it dreads to comprehend...

Although it be uttered by maid, matron or man, friend, chance acquaintance, tradesman or servant...

Merry Christmas to You and to Yours

By DE LYSLE FERREE CASS

A Few Don'ts for Christmas

- Don't court indigestion.
- Don't grumble, whatever you do.
- Don't half fill the kiddies' stockings.
- Don't give presents which will be useless.
- Don't forget the mistletoe. Romance still lives.
- Don't forget that it ought to be a merry Christmas.
- Don't deny the little ones' ideas about Santa Claus.
- Don't worry about unpaid bills—at any rate until tomorrow.
- Don't scoff at the lingering superstitions of the good old days.
- Don't for the show of things, buy presents which you can't afford.
- Don't expect too many presents. Take what you get and be thankful.
- Don't, if you get up on your wrong side, make everybody else miserable.
- Don't forget to think at least once during the day what Christmas really means.
- Don't give a present unless you want to. Better not give at all than give insincerely.
- Don't forget that the giving of Christmas boxes, like charity, should begin at home.
- Don't, if you are a girl, stand under the mistletoe until you see the right chap approaching.
- Don't kiss somebody else's best girl, even though she is under the mistletoe. There might be a row.
- Don't work on Christmas day if you can avoid it. If you have to, however, don't make a song about it.
- Don't give Johnnie a trumpet and Peter a whistle and expect to have a quiet time. It's unreasonable.
- Don't put off buying presents until the last minute. You'll get better value and avoid the crush if you shop early.
- Don't send an electric runabout to a freezing widow with five starving children. This is like throwing a rope of pearls to a drowning man.
- Don't look pained when somebody tells a fifty-year-old Christmas story. That's one of the unavoidable circumstances of the festive season.
- Don't give a new song to some one who doesn't sing; but be still more certain that you don't give a new song to some one who imagines he can sing.
- Don't refrain from giving because you can't afford to give much. The intrinsic value of a gift counts for nothing. It is the thought which prompts it that matters.
- Don't let the wife give you a Christmas present in the form of cigars. If she persists in doing so, don't smoke them—give them away again, without letting her know about it, of course.

Christmas Means Love

We cannot picture it without seeing the spangled Christmas tree girt with the faces of gleeful youngsters, glad parents, and happy bodies returned home from town or far metropolis. It sounds like bells and crackling logs and shouts of children. And even our old, round-shouldered, sorrow-ridden planet, with his eye knocked out on his cheek, pauses to smile from sea to sea, and love is everywhere rejuvenated.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

Tasted Suspicious.
“M—dear, did you make this Christmas pudding out of the cook book?”
“Yes, love.”
“I thought I tasted one of the cov-”

For a Good Little Girl

